



MURRAY COUNTY 4-H

NEW MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

Edition 5 of 6 June - July 2023

Welcome to 4-H!

Our new member newsletters are coming to an end here shortly. I hope they have been filled with lots of helpful information. This is the second to last edition! We are in the office most Monday through Friday's from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm if you ever have any questions for us. Send us an email or give us a call and we would be more than happy to help you!

- Kim Hause, Extension Educator, Murray County

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County Fair Registration Details/ FairEntry

It's almost time to let us know what you'll be bringing to the fair. You will need to register for the projects you want to bring to the fair online through our FairEntry website

(<http://murraycounty-mn.fairentry.com>), which is tied to your 4HOnline account. It will open June 1 and close on July 15 every year. This is different than the Animal ID deadline. A Premium book that will help you register for projects you want to bring to fair is done and ready in the Extension Office if you want a hard copy or can be found on our [website](#).

You will note that the County Fair Registration carries a deadline of July 15. County Fair entry is a huge project at the Extension Office, so we ask that you respect that and follow the deadlines. If you have questions, please be sure to ask your Club Leader or 4-H Staff. Any of these people will be happy to help! If you fail to have your fair projects in FairEntry by July 15 you cannot receive higher than a blue ribbon and won't be state fair eligible.



4HOnline and FairEntry...What's the difference?

4HOnline:

- Enroll/re-enroll in Murray County 4-H (become a member or reactivate your membership)
- Allows members to select (or remove) project areas. You can then exhibit in those projects, but it's not required. This allows us to send you notifications of events, deadlines, etc. for those projects.
- Register for State events such as BLU, YELLO, CWF, Summer camps and other state events.
- ID your animal(s) so they are eligible for county/state fair. Market beef ID deadline is February 15; May 15 is the ID deadline for other animals that require ID.
- If showing an animal(s), the system verifies required LQA&E training is completed.

FairEntry:

- **All members (including Cloverbuds) must register their exhibits/animals using FairEntry between June 1-July 15** to be eligible for judging. Note: animals must be identified in 4HOnline **and ALSO** registered as an exhibit (entry) in FairEntry. *Cloverbuds are exempt from animal IDs and most poultry exhibits don't require IDs but some require a Statement of Origin.*
- You must know your 4HOnline email/password to login (temporary passwords can be requested).
- You must have internet access to register your projects since FairEntry is an internet-based program.

Get started now in [FairEntry](#) for 4-H project judging registration! Don't wait until the July 15 deadline!

County Fair Opportunities

County Fair provides many opportunities for you to get involved in 4-H to learn and grow. While exhibiting 4-H projects at the fair is certainly not a requirement of membership, it is a wonderful way for you to showcase your projects and receive feedback and recognition for your work. Visit with 4-H staff or your Club Leader to learn more about 4-H opportunities at the fair.

General Projects are Conference Judged

Conference Judging is a conversation between the judge and the 4-H'er. It is a chance for you to explain to a judge what you have learned from your project experience. It allows time to ask a judge question that you may have about your project. Our general project judging occurs on the Monday of Fair Week in the 4-H Building from 2:00 to 7:00pm. Clothing & Fashion Revue, Food Revue & demonstration & Presentations are all judged the week before the fair. If you are interested in those projects, you will receive more information in regard to that in the mail or refer to the Murray County 4-H Premium book.



What can I expect during judging?

The interview is as important as the exhibit itself: 50% of the weight is given on the 4-H Project itself, and the other 50% is based on the knowledge of the exhibitor.

- The judge, who is knowledgeable in the project area, determines the ribbon placing.
- Judges will observe, question, listen and challenge you.
- Judges offer encouraging and constructive feedback, as well as suggestions on how to further explore the project area.



How are Cloverbuds Judged?

The Cloverbud program provides opportunity to explore and actively learn in a noncompetitive environment. Developmental research supports noncompetitive activities and participation recognition.

- You have a judge just for your projects.
- The judge will ask you to tell them about your project.
- The judge may also ask you questions about the project and give you ideas for next year's project.

You will receive a recognition ribbon for Cloverbuds.

How is Livestock Judged?

Livestock and other animal projects are designed to allow youth to learn management practices such as nutrition, shelter, water, environment, breeding, care, etc. of their animal. The assessment of this knowledge, as it is applied to the project, can occur in one or all of the ways listed below.

- **Evaluation** of the animal considering its physical characteristics and/or performance.

- **Showmanship and knowledge** of the exhibitor as displayed in the show ring. How the animal is prepared, groomed, and is it presented at its optimal level.
- **Animal Science Interviews** reveal the exhibitor's knowledge in the animal project area and ability to communicate in an interview setting.

How is Cloverbud Livestock Judged?

When Cloverbuds present their livestock to the judge, they will be asked what they learned in the project, how they cared for their animal, and prepared for the fair. This will be a "show and tell" where the members share their animal with the judge. The exhibits will not be evaluated with blue, red, or white ribbons, but rather a "Cloverbud Ribbon." This gives these members a county fair experience without competition.

When animals and Cloverbuds are together at 4-H activities, such as fairs and shows, a parent/responsible person will be in control of the animal (control means to handle and lead the animal). This includes feeding, watering, and changing bedding for the animal.



What does My Ribbon Color Mean?

Purple: The exhibit meets all standards. The exhibitor has shown complete understanding of what, how and why the exhibit was done and has a thorough knowledge of the subject. The exhibit and workmanship are extraordinary and need no improvement.

Blue: The exhibit meets most standards. The exhibitor can explain what, how and why the exhibit was done and has good knowledge of the subject. The exhibit is well organized and well done.

Red: The exhibit meets some standards. The exhibitor can somewhat explain what, how, and why the exhibit was done and has a fair knowledge of the subject. Some improvements may be needed on the exhibit.

White: The exhibit meets few standards and lacks the quality of other exhibits. The exhibitor cannot adequately explain what, how and why of the exhibit. Possibly they have overlooked a safety flaw. Improvement is needed in either the exhibit, the knowledge of the subject, or both.

Qualifying for the Minnesota State Fair

You must have completed 6th grade in order to participate in 4-H events at the Minnesota State Fair. If you are listed on the State Fair Line Up at the county fair, you might be eligible

for the State Fair! There may be additional eligibility requirements, depending on your project, so be sure to review the rules in the premium book for these details. You have a judge just for your projects.

If you participate at the MN State Fair, there will be some paperwork you'll be asked to complete. You'll bring your exhibit home following the County fair, update it with any suggestions the judge had for you, and returned to the Extension office. 4-H Staff will deliver all projects to the State Fair (general projects only), and you will participate in conference judging at the State Fair, similar to the County Fair! Your exhibit will stay on display at the 4-H Building for all 12 days of the MN State Fair. The judge may also ask you questions about the project and give you ideas for next year's project.

What is the State Fair Line Up?

4-H Members in 3rd grade through one year past high school are judged on the projects they signed up for 50% on the project quality and 50% on their knowledge of the project for non-livestock projects. Judges will award a purple, blue, red or white ribbon for each project at the time of judging. After judging is completed, Judges are then asked review all the projects and select the top two projects to receive the grand and reserve champion placings, and any other top placing youth and their projects for a "State Fair Line Up." The youth placed on this list typically have projects that the judge feels are worthy of competing at the MN State Fair. The line ups are posted for public viewing the day after General Exhibit judging or shortly after each livestock show, inside the 4-H Building at the Fairgrounds. Youth are asked to review the line-ups and decline or accept any trips they've won. This process can be confusing, so we hope that you will ask any 4-H Staff Member about any questions you may have!

Once again, we would like to welcome you to Murray County 4-H!! We are so happy to have you join us and be a part of this amazing organization. Please contact us if you have any questions!

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